

FFTF's timeline

1969 Construction begins.

1978 Construction is completed.

1980 Initial operation.

1982-1992 Successful operation as a national research facility testing advanced nuclear fuels, materials, components, protocols for nuclear power-plant operations and maintenance, and reactor safety designs. Produced a variety of medical and industrial isotopes. Produced tritium for the U.S. fusion research program. Conducted cooperative international research work.

1993 Department of Energy orders shutdown.

1994-1997 Fuel is removed from reactor for storage. Twenty-three of 100 operating systems put into lay-up status.

1997 Facility is maintained in standby condition as DOE evaluates potential role in tritium production.

1998 DOE determines FFTF will not assume a role in tritium production.

1999 DOE completes plan for FFTF program scoping.

1999-2001 Environmental Impact Statements evaluate potential impacts associated with potential expansion of DOE nuclear infrastructure capabilities for proposed missions. Plans developed for both shutdown and restart. Refueling system upgraded. Tri-City community leaders attempt to secure mission and funding source for FFTF.

April 4, 2003 DOE orders sodium drain.

April 7, 2003 Secondary loop sodium drain begins.